

[1963-MAY 21]

NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Regular Monthly Meeting
Fourth Floor Auditorium of the
Newark Public Library
May 21, 1963

A G E N D A

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

1. Opening Remarks. Alexander Mark, Chairman
2. Introduction of the Mayor of Newark by Daniel S. Anthony,
Executive Director of Newark Human Rights Commission
3. Address Hon. Hugh J. Addonizio, Mayor
4. Introduction of Featured Speaker . . . , Alexander Mark
5. Address

THE BLACK MUSLIMS

Minister James KKK of
Muhammad's Mosque No. 25
Newark, N.J.

6. Questions or Responses from the members of the Newark
Human Rights Commission and its Clergy Advisory
Council.
7. OPEN FORUM - Questions from the Audience.
8. New Business.

ALL MEETINGS OF THE NEWARK
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ARE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

This Commission wishes to express its most sincere grat-
itude to the Newark Public Library for opening its doors to
this Open Forum.

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NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
 Tuesday, May 21, 1963

Introduction of Minister James XX
 by Alexander Mark, Chairman

The Newark Human Rights Commission has received some criticism for presenting unpopular and controversial topics.

The commission has presented various views on current topics. We do not believe that the primary objective of the Commission and its staff is to concern itself only with programs that are full of sweetness and light -- and void of content.

In these changing times, we have an obligation to keep informed, and to pass on information to the members of the community, so that the actions they may take -- the opinions they may form -- will be based on fact, rather than fiction.

Our meeting this evening has several significant purposes. We met the members of the Clergy Advisory Council. We are much indebted to each of them, because of their work and their leadership -- in the task of learning to live together. Many thanks to each of our clergymen.

Another purpose for our meeting together, is to share some information about some different philosophies.

You have met, I feel certain, some members of our society who seem peculiar -- or perhaps I should say of a different breed or group --. A breed or group, which, although ~~evolving~~ evolving in accordance with the theories of Darwin, may have been ~~just~~ produced as the result of some mutation -- a mutation that may have resulted from some ancient nuclear blast -- described

in some biblical passages long forgotten. In any event, whatever the cause, there does exist a group of humans that are man-like in form, like you and I; but are ostrich-like in action - not like you and I.

This group believes that if you stick your head in the sand and remain motionless, whatever it is -- that is there -- will go away. And it won't disturb you because you can't see it. And it can't see you and we all know ~~for~~ what you can't see, can do no harm.

Only last Sunday, I heard a speaker say, "It ain't that people are ignorant -- but they know ~~some~~ much about things which ain't so."

We have heard about the Black Muslims. I must admit that I am ignorant about ~~much~~ much that ~~you~~ concerns this movement. Like you, I have heard intimations and innuendoes that may be have been born more of fantasy than of fact.

I have heard about the dangers of this and the dangers of that. But as much of what was said seemed to be made up more of evasion and excuse -- than of sincere, honest attempts at education and enlightenment.

This evening, this community, this audience, has accepted a tremendous obligation. In accepting that obligation, you have demonstrated the kind of courage that Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas must have had in mind, when, in a recent speech, said, "Now Judges sit in judgment balancing the need for speech -- against some other community need -- while community passions can out-balance free speech -- and often do."

That there is a Black Muslim movement, we cannot deny. What caused the movement? What is its philosophy? Its direction? We soon will learn.

Is the Muslim movement the result of a ~~problem~~ problem? Or ~~is~~ is it the solution to ~~an~~ a problem? You will listen to the answers and, I hope, that some of us will listen and ask ourselves, are we a part of the problem? Or are we part of the solution?

Tonight we will hear differences of opinions. We will hear different philosophies. We will probably note references that accentuate differences -- differences ~~between~~ which began for each of us from the day we were born.

I am hopeful, that some day, you and I will meet again -- and we will speak of similarities -- with the same intensity with which we speak of differences. And, on that day, we will begin to learn ~~as~~ to work and live together.

It seems quite proper that we meet this evening in an institution whose walls are ~~thickly~~ lined with volumes -- volumes full of ~~agrees~~ agreements and disagreements. We meet, by design, in this building which is dedicated to the enrichment and enlightenment of people, ~~and~~ through education.

This evening, if each of us ~~thinks~~ listens, and thinks and reacts, as an educated individual -- can -- and will act, we will then be able to prove to ourselves, to the citizens of this city, and ~~and~~ to this nation, that we met, where differences were discussed, because we are people who strive to understand each other. And we know that understanding is vital, if we wish to learn how to live together as people. We know that we want

to live ~~together~~ together -- in this Nation -- where there are many who have yet to become tolerant of -- aware of -- conscious of -- respectful of -- the rights and freedoms of each of us. Until all of us guarantee the liberties of each of us -- none of us are completely free: